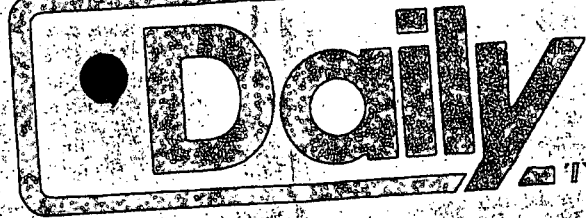
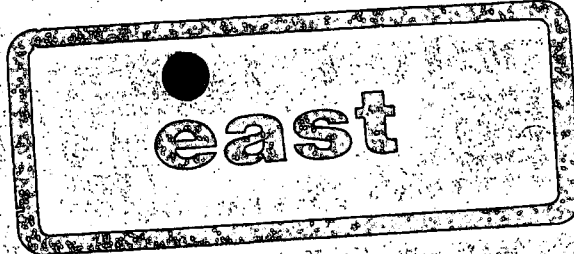


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TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1979

Toxin Found I

Howard McPeek

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Howard M. McPeek, 72, died suddenly on Sunday at home.

Born in Wharton, N.J., he moved here from Ledgewood, N.J., where he had lived most of his life.

He retired in 1971 after 24 years as a welder at Interpace Inc., Wharton, N.J.

Mr. McPeek leaves his wife, Ann; two daughters, Mrs. Beverly Condit of Burlington, and Mrs. Fay Marchand of Peoria; two brothers, Clarence of Port Charlotte, Fla., and Francis of Wharton, N.J.; three sisters, Mrs. Clara Hornyok of Wharton, N.J., Mrs. Gladys Rog of Albuquerque, N.M., and Mrs. Hazel Babus of Mount Arlington, N.J.; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Tuttle Funeral Home, 272 Route 10, Randolph, N.J.

Winifred McKenna

MORRISTOWN — Mrs. Winifred M. McKenna of 60 Phoenix Ave. died at home yesterday following a long illness. She was 66.

Born in Morris Plains, she was a lifelong resident of the area. She moved here 46 years ago.

She was employed by the Morris County Board of Taxation until her retirement in 1969. She was a member of the Rosary Society of the Church of the Assumption.

Mrs. McKenna leaves her husband, James J.; two sons, James M., here, and Donald J., Morris Plains; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held 9 a.m. Thursday from the Doyle Funeral Home, 106 Maple Ave., to a Mass of the Resurrection at 9:30 a.m. at the Church.

in his family's Orchard Rest in Clifton. After he opened The Harbor, he began a turkey farm behind the restaurant and raised about 12,000 turkeys a year. He used half for his own business and sold the rest to other restaurants.

He leaves his wife, Beatrice; a

Flynn Services

MONTVILLE TWP. — Services were held this morning for Ethel L. Flynn, 53, who died at home Sunday after a long illness.

Born here, she had lived in the township all her life.

She was a clerk with Prudential Insurance Co., Newark, until her retirement in 1974.

Miss Flynn leaves her mother, Mrs. Helen R. Flynn; a brother, Joseph of Pine Brook; two sisters, Helen Vreeland of Pine Brook and Edna Rose of East Hanover; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were by the Dancy Funeral Home, 9 Small Ave., Caldwell.

Riverside's FanFair Slated For June 9

BOONTON TWP. — If you mix hundreds of volunteers, thousands of fair-goers with lots of food and entertainment, you have a recipe for a fun-filled day, all of which benefits Riverside Hospital.

The ninth annual FanFair will take place Saturday, June 9, at the Aircraft Radio field here. There will be a variety of food, games and prizes. The gates open at 9:30 a.m.

Physician Appointed To Hospital Staff

HACKETTSTOWN — Dr. Cecilia Cortes Levich of Morris Plains has been appointed to staff of

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Services will
Thursday at
Home, 96 Main

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Wharton faults DEP for toxins test delay

By DAVID SKOLNIK

Wharton Borough officials yesterday said they were outraged at the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for delaying an investigation into possible chemical contamination of the three municipal wells, one of which has been found by a private laboratory to contain traces of toxic xylene.

After waiting for DEP assistance for more than three months, the borough council commissioned Century Labs of Thorofare to conduct tests on the wells, and results released Monday showed the solvent xylene, a suspected carcinogen, existed in Well No. 3.

Borough health officer Richard Konopka said the DEP was first asked in February to look into the matter, "but we never got a response." William Laffey of DEP's Potable Water Division said tests were conducted on all three wells May 7 and that results are expected on Monday.

"The reason we've taken so long is that we are usually swamped with many requests of this sort and they have to be handled one at a time," Laffey said.

At a council meeting last Monday, Councilman George Abyad said test results provided by Century revealed there were 100 parts per billion of xylene in Well No. 3.

In December, xylene and several other chemicals were discovered contaminating the dumping grounds directly behind the L.E. Carpenter Co., a wallcover and plastics manufacturer on Main Street.

That initial discovery was made by the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority (RVRSA), which requested the test as part of a right-of-way study for a new sewer line it plans to construct on Carpenter property.

"On Feb. 8, we sent RVRSA's results

to the DEP and asked for their reaction," Abyad said. "The next day, we sent them a letter requesting that they come to Wharton to take their own tests of the dumping grounds and the wells, because we were afraid that the chemicals would spread to the wells and Rockaway River."

Abyad, who explained that the dumping ground is located within 100 feet of the Rockaway River and a quarter-mile from Well No. 3, said the DEP never responded to the letter.

"We asked for their help again in March and April and we never heard from them," Abyad continued. "Finally, on April 25, we commissioned the services of Century Labs and had the tests conducted at our own expense."

Water department superintendent William Husti said Century will be taking more tests of Well No. 3 the remainder of the week. He added that the two other wells were not affected by any chemicals.

Konopka said xylene is defined as a flammable compound used as a solvent in making lacquers, rubber cement and aviation fuel. He added that the chemical is on the federal government's list of suspected carcinogens — "suspected of causing cancer of the stomach and bladder."

Abyad said Well No. 3 was shut down last week. It will remain closed until the DEP's test results are in and "we know more about this situation," he added. He said Well No. 3 is a backup well that was built two years ago at a cost of \$400,000.

"If the DEP's results show that there is xylene in the well, it may order the borough to close the well permanently," Abyad continued. "That will be a shame, because the borough paid so much for the well."